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General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 115 (b)
Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The Secretary-General has received notification of the resignation of Simon Hough (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) from the Committee on Contributions, effective 3 May 2017. Accordingly, the General Assembly will be required to appoint, at its current session, a person to fill the vacancy for the remaining period of the term of office of Mr. Hough, which expires on 31 December 2017.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has nominated Steve Townley to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Hough.

3. In a communication dated 9 May 2017, the Secretary-General was informed by the Chair of the Group of Western European and other States that the candidature of Mr. Townley had been endorsed by the Group.

4. The candidate's curriculum vitae is contained in the annex to the present note.

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Annex

Curriculum vitae*

Steve Townley

Director, International, United Kingdom National Audit Office

Key skills

- Qualified accountant and experienced external auditor with over 30 years' technical accounting and audit experience working with United Nations organizations and major United Kingdom public departments (including Department of Work and Pensions, Ministry of Defence and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs)
- Highly experienced in production and presentation of reports to United Nations governing bodies and committees and in the negotiation and clearance of sensitive and complex reports
- Wide experience of corporate and strategic leadership, leading client engagement, managing teams and negotiating clearance of contentious audit reports, and responsible for drafting and presentation of published reports to governing bodies, political groupings and other stakeholders
- Expert knowledge of United Nations operations and related rules and regulations, governing body structures, political groupings and lengthy experience of working with United Nations senior management
- Expert knowledge of enterprise risk management, governance and accountability frameworks and experience of fraud risk assessment, prevention and investigation
- In depth knowledge of Oracle and other ERP project management and business transformation projects
- In depth knowledge of governance, accountability and internal control frameworks in international organizations
- Extensive experience of reviewing the management and evaluation of technical cooperation and development aid programmes and projects

Qualifications

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
- Certified Corporate Fraud Investigator
- BA Social Sciences (Economics), University of Leicester
- A Levels: Pure Maths and Statistics, Economics, Geography, General Studies

Core experience

Experience of managing and delivering a wide range of complex international audits and other assignments (under both UNSAS and IPSAS) in the United Nations and of auditing major United Kingdom government departments (Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Central and Local Government and Ministry of Defence) including departmental resource accounts; Charities and Companies. Direct experience of auditing most United Nations entities, including United

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Nations Headquarters Secretariat, UNDP, UNOPS, UNHCR, UNODC, United Nations peacekeeping operations, UNOG, UNON, UNOV, UNOG, UNODC, ILO, FAO, WFP, ITC, ICTY and ICTR. I have worked closely and constructively with audit committees in many United Nations clients.

In depth knowledge and experience of United Nations reform issues and of United Nations financial management and business transformation projects, including Umoja, human resources and procurement reforms, common system developments, implementation of IPSAS, counter-fraud and corruption initiatives, enterprise risk management, technical cooperation and project and programme management. Experience in examining complex accounting and audit issues, involving re-performance and validation of economic and other models used by entities in core business processes such as budgeting (e.g. budget re-costing), employee liabilities (including validation of actuarial reports) and complex accounting estimates (e.g. finance leases).

Served as an expert on a number of advisory bodies and technical groups throughout my career, including the financial advisory board to the preparatory commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; five years' experience as United Kingdom Director of external audit with the United Nations Board of Auditors; and four years as Vice-Chair of the Technical Group of the United Nations Panel of external auditors.

During my career, I have travelled extensively to see United Nations operations at headquarters and in the field and been based in overseas locations in New York, Geneva and Rome for over 14 years in total.

September 2016 to June 2017: Director of Financial Audit of United Kingdom Customs and Internal Revenue Service (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs), Director of Strategy and Planning for the Mass Market Operations Cluster and Director of National Audit Office's International Relations

On returning from New York, I was appointed lead Director on the financial audit of the United Kingdom Revenue and Customs Department, which is responsible for the collection of over £560 Billion of United Kingdom revenue, while also leading National Audit Office's international relations and developing and setting the strategic direction for the National Audit Office's Mass Market Operations cluster.

2011 to September 2016: international audits based in New York from September 2014

Director responsible for all National Audit Office international audits and United Kingdom Director on the United Nations Board of Auditors responsible for Financial Audit and Reporting on the United Nations, including all aspects of the audits of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Office for Project Services; United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, United Nations Compensation Commission, the International Trade Centre and six United Nations peacekeeping operations.

2009 to 2011: Department for Central and Local Government

Audit Manager responsible for the audits of the Department for Central and Local Government Resource Account; the Audit Commission and a large number of small to medium-sized non-departmental public bodies, Charities and Government Companies. My role was to lead the central government audit work and client engagement across the United Kingdom local government sector at a time of

transition when many local bodies were being closed down and powers transferred to central government bodies.

2005-2008: Ministry of Defence

Managing the audit of the Defence Equipment and Support Organisation and a number of smaller defence bodies, including the Defence Support and Distribution Agency, British Forces Post Office, and international armaments development agencies such as the Organisation conjointe de cooperation en matière d'armement (OCCAR). I gained wide experience of complex accounting issues, major defence procurement projects, logistics and inventory management in the context of a major, complex and highly sensitive United Kingdom government department.

2005: Consultant, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome

Responsible for procuring, managing and supporting a Central Computer Telecommunications Agency Risk Analysis and Management Method project (Central Computer Telecommunications Agency Risk Analysis and Management Method) review of Information security. This project tested the effectiveness of FAO IT Security and Governance structures leading to important improvements in cyber security.

2000 to 2004: International Labour Organization, Geneva

Project Director, Oracle ERP implementation for ILO HQ and field operations. As Project Director, my responsibilities included selection and procurement of an appropriate ERP solution and integration partner. I had responsibility for overall supervision of the project team (up to 120 staff and consultants) and was accountable for managing the $25 million project budget. I reported to a project steering committee and ILO governing bodies. The project successfully replaced an ageing mainframe computer system with a modern integrated ERP database system which provided a platform for further business transformation and increased operational efficiency and effectiveness.

1996 to 2000: Manager National Audit Office, Geneva Office

I was responsible for managing a large portfolio of audits, including the external audit of the International Labour Organization, and all European-based agencies audited under the NAOs work with the United Nations Board of Auditors, including UNOG, UNODC, UNOV, ICTY, UNHCR, OHCHR, ITC, UNITAR, UNCC, International Training Centre Turin, UNFCC, UNCCD, and the United Nations Staff College.

1993 to 1996: Audit Manager, National Audit Office section, Blackpool, Department for Work and Pensions

Initially posted to London as an Audit Professional on the audit of contributory benefits, I was promoted to Audit Manager and transferred to the National Audit Office's Blackpool Office to manage the audit of the United Kingdom's major Welfare Benefits and the Department for Work and Pensions departmental accounts, including its executive agencies. I highlighted the major impact of fraud and error in relation to welfare benefits, which led to a major and ongoing audit qualification of these accounts.

1989 to 1992: Principal Auditor, Rome, FAO and WFP

I was resident in Rome as the lead Principal Auditor on the audit of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agency accounts, including the Trust Fund accounts, FAO Commissary and Credit Union, and also worked on the audit of the World Food Programme. I also led the United Nations Board of Auditors audit of the UNDP.